

Facts About The California Health Care Facility, Ventura



CALIFORNIA PRISON
HEALTH CARE RECEIVERSHIP

Why are new prison health care facilities necessary?

The U. S. Constitution protects every person in this country from cruel and unusual punishment. After years of litigation, three federal courts have independently found that the State of California consistently violates the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment by failing to provide even the most basic medical care, mental health care, and dental care for its adult prison population.

A free person has the ability to seek care and determine their own course of treatment. But an incarcerated person is fully dependent on the state. Denial of access to treatment or medication can seriously aggravate existing conditions and even be lethal. In fact, the courts found that unnecessary deaths were frequently occurring in California's prisons because of the lack of basic healthcare.

These facilities are necessary to provide this Constitutional level of care.

Where and Why?

The Receiver's site selection process for the new medical facilities emphasized cost efficiency through two central criteria: 1) sites should be close to a sizable job base to ensure an ability to recruit qualified staff, including medical staff and correctional officers; and 2) sites should be located on state-owned property controlled by the California Department of Corrections to avoid the cost and time required to purchase land.

The California Health Care Facility, Ventura is being proposed at 3100 Wright Road, on the site of the state's current Youth Correctional Facility.

Health Care and Design

The California Health Care Facility, Ventura will feature low-rise structures including housing designed in clusters, diagnostic and treatment centers, administrative and ancillary structures, and employee and visitor parking. Inmate-patients with functional impairments or chronic health problems, including elderly inmate-patients requiring long-term care services, will comprise approximately half of the population housed at the facility. Inmate-patients requiring mental health services, including medication management and therapy, will comprise the balance of the population.

Security is a Priority

These prison health care facilities will be very safe and secure. Each facility will be equipped with cutting-edge security technology and be surrounded by an eFence. An eFence is a cyclone fence that has a lethal current running through it. There is a "no climb" fence barrier to prevent contact with an eFence. Not a single inmate in California has successfully penetrated an eFence.

Employment Opportunities

The California Health Care Facility, Ventura will have an annual payroll of over \$100 million, and will offer approximately 1,600 new jobs. Jobs at the facility will include positions health care, corrections, teaching, business management, education, vocational training, and more. The Receiver intends to initiate partnerships with educational and health care institutions in host communities to develop job training and apprenticeship programs for new prospective employees.

Environmental Process

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared as part of this proposal. The Draft EIR will assess the site characteristics, size, nature, and timing of the proposed project to determine whether the impacts are potentially significant and whether impacts can be avoided or mitigated. Community input is an important part of the environmental process and the community will be notified once the environmental review process has commenced.

For more information – visit: www.cphcs.ca.gov



COMMUNITY MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE FACILITY, VENTURA

October 28, 2008

Dear Resident,

As you know the California Prison Health Care Services is proposing a prison health care facility in Ventura, at 3100 Wright Road (the site of the state's existing Youth Correctional Facility). This proposed facility is one of seven being planned throughout the state as a result of a federal court order to improve the substandard healthcare our state's inmate population currently receives.

Since we announced our proposal for the Wright Road site, I have heard from many Ventura County residents about the project, including questions and concerns about safety, aesthetics, traffic, staffing and public infrastructure. We know these issues are important to you. That is why we have scheduled a community meeting to provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the proposal and talk to experts on my team. I hope you will take the time to attend:

Community Meeting

**Thursday – November 13, 2008
5:30 p.m.**

Camarillo Community Center Auditorium
1605 East Burnley Street
Camarillo, CA 93010

Meeting Agenda:

- Open House – 5:30 p.m.
- Presentation – 6:15 p.m.
- Question & Answer Session – 6:30 p.m.

*Note: the question and answer session end time will be flexible to allow as many attendees the opportunity to speak as possible. Speakers will be asked to limit their questions and comments to two minutes.

In the near future, we will be initiating the environmental review process for the project. You will have additional opportunities to provide feedback and to ask questions. The first opportunity will be the environmental scoping meeting, where you can provide formal comments on the issues you want addressed in the environmental analysis. Additional meetings will be held as the process moves forward.

For more information, please refer to the project information on the back of this letter or visit the California Prison Health Care Services website at www.cphcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Clark Kelso'.

J. Clark Kelso
Receiver